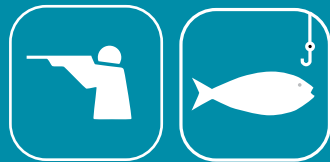




U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Panther Swamp *National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2011-2012*



This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and fishing on Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex. These regulations supplement regulations governing hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations and applicable state regulations. Violation of Refuge or State regulations may result in confiscation of Refuge Permit in addition to prosecution.

Request permits and additional information from:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12595 MS Hwy 149
Yazoo City, MS 39194
662/836 3004

Welcome to Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

T R Complex Refuges are located south of State Highway 82 in the South Delta of Mississippi in what is known as the Lower Mississippi River Valley. The refuges are scattered from just south of Greenville, down towards Vicksburg, over to Yazoo City, and back up to Greenwood. The complex consists of seven refuges, Hillside, Holt Collier, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Panther Swamp, Theodore Roosevelt and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges. Established in 1978, Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge encompasses over 40,000 acres. Its expansive bottomland hardwood forests, cypress-tupelo sloughs, and meandering bayous represent some of the best remaining examples of the historically predominant habitat types that once characterized the entire Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. In addition to providing resting and feeding areas for over 100,000 wintering waterfowl annually, the refuge also provides habitat for 200 species of neotropical migratory songbirds. Resident species making their home among the woodlands, sloughs, and reforested areas include the American alligator, whitetail deer, swamp rabbit, wild turkey, squirrel, and various small fur-bearers.

General Provisions and Access

State Hunting License(s) and Regulations

Persons utilizing the refuge are required to have in their possession appropriate State licenses and stamps. Unless further restricted by refuge regulations, State bag, possession limits and regulations apply. Please consult current Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Park Regulations at www.mdwfp.com for details.

T R Complex Annual Public Use Permit

Any person 16 years of age and older utilizing the refuge for consumptive use (hunting and fishing) must possess the T R Complex Annual Public Use Permit which certifies they understand and will comply with Refuge regulations contained in this brochure. This permit is nontransferable, non-refundable, and is also **required in order to be eligible for Limited Draw Hunts.** Applications are available at www.fws.gov/trcomplex or can be submitted on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. **Applications must include name as listed on license, mailing address, telephone number, and a money order or check payable to USFWS for \$15 for each permit requested.** Permits are available at Panther Swamp NWR, 12595 MS Hwy 149, Yazoo City, MS 39194 and Yazoo NWR, 595 Yazoo Refuge Road, Hollandale, MS 38748. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm. Permits are valid August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012.

User Information Card

Each day before hunting or fishing, all participants must obtain a User Information Card available at the Visitor Information Stations (see maps) and follow the printed instructions on the card. All harvested game must be recorded and cards submitted daily. Self service check stations are provided (see map). For each antlerless deer, please record weight, lactation and date harvested. For each buck, please record weight, main beam length

for each antler, basal circumference for each antler, inside spread and date harvested. Also record hoof sloughing, if present.

General Regulations

The following acts are prohibited:

- Operation of vehicles on “Closed” roads
- All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt
- Hunting in designated closed or no hunting areas
- The use of artificial light, including vehicle headlights, to locate or take any animal except as authorized for raccoon and frog hunting
- Use or possession of toxic shot, including buckshot
- Use or possession of climbing spikes or hunting from a tree which has metal objects driven or screwed into it
- Use or possession of any drug or device for employing such drug for hunting
- Use of plastic flagging tape
- Use or possession of alcohol
- Camping
- Fires
- Horses and mules
- Organized drives for deer or hogs
- Baiting and/or feeding wildlife

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific refuge regulations (50 CFR Part 32).

Closed Areas and Times

It is unlawful to hunt from or shoot into a 100’ zone along either side of pipeline or power line rights-of-way, designated roads, trails or around parking lots (see maps).

Vehicles must not obstruct roads, trails, gates, turn rows, field access ramps or fire lanes and must be operated only on designated roads (see maps).

Temporary or permanent closure of Refuge areas may occur due to unforeseen circumstances and not be in this brochure. Please check for on-the-ground signage and/or updates at check stations and entry points.

All other public activities on the refuge are prohibited during firearm deer hunts.

All lands managed under T R Complex, including refuge parking areas and boat ramps, are closed 1 1/2 hours after sunset until 4 am. This regulation prohibits the use of Refuge Parking Areas or launching of a boat into refuge waters from 1 1/2 hours after sunset until 4 am.

Refuge hours of operation do not apply to those actively participating in Refuge raccoon and frog hunting seasons.

Beginning December 15, all entry into the Lower Twist area and Carter Ponds is prohibited.

ATVs and Boats

ATV access is permitted from September 15 until February 28. ATVs may be used only on established, designated trails and are not allowed off trail for any purpose. Hunters may retrieve game with the use of game carts or manual dragging up to the point to where vehicles are allowed by Refuge regulations.

Boats left unattended for more than 72 hours will be considered abandoned and will be confiscated.

Youth Hunters

Any hunter under the age of 16 must possess a Hunter Safety Course Card or Certificate and be in the immediate presence of an adult 21 years of age or older at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth. Youth hunters are not required to possess a Refuge Annual Public Use Permit, unless participating in a limited Draw Hunt.

Hunter Orange

Each person must wear at least 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline while on the refuge during the rabbit with dog, quail and refuge designated firearm seasons for deer; and for all hunting on Farmers Home Administration tracts (FmHA) during state deer season. Ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange visible from all sides.

Other Regulations

Violations of refuge regulations may be cause for loss of hunting/ fishing privileges.

Raccoon, opossum, coyote, beaver, bobcat and nutria may be taken during refuge hunts within the State season and limit for each species with weapons authorized for the specified refuge hunt.

Hogs may be taken only during Refuge Big Game Seasons.

Deer Hunt Regulations

Treestands

Valid permit holders are allowed to possess and hunt from one portable stand or blind on each refuge within T R Complex. Identifiable information must be displayed on all portable stands, tripods and blinds. Stands left on the area do not reserve hunting locations. Stands or blinds may be placed 48 hours prior to a hunt and must be removed within 48 hours after each designated hunt. All stands without proper identification are subject to seizure.

While climbing a tree, installing a stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand, hunters must use a fall arrest system that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association Standards.

Deer Harvest Check-In

All deer harvested must be checked out at the self-service check stations (see maps) following the instructions provided, prior to leaving the Refuge. Deer harvested during limited draw hunts must also be tagged.

Other Regulations

Hunting within or adjacent to brushy fields and tree plantations less than 5 feet in height must be from a stand a minimum of 10 feet above ground. Deer hunting in agricultural or open fields is prohibited.

Hogs may be taken only with weapons legal for each deer hunt.

Limited Draw Firearm Deer Hunts (Annual Public Use Permit Required)

Limited Draw Hunts are selected by a random computer drawing. Applications must be postmarked by September 30, 2011. A valid Annual Public Use Permit is required in order to apply and may be purchased prior to or upon submission of a Limited Draw Permit application. Applications must include name as listed on license, mailing address and telephone number of each applicant. Hunters may apply for only one Limited Draw Deer Hunt at Panther Swamp NWR. Up to five hunters per application. Youth applicants must be designated and include their Hunter Safety number on the application. Group applications must be signed by at least one applicant. Duplicate applications will be rejected. Applications are available at www.fws.gov/trcomplex or can be submitted on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper to Panther Swamp NWR, 12595 MS Hwy 149, Yazoo City, MS 39194. Limited Draw Permits will be mailed within two weeks after the drawing is complete. This permit is required to be in your possession while hunting during the designated hunt. These Permits are non-transferable. Only drawn permittees are allowed on the Refuge during Limited Draw hunts. If you do not return your limited draw hunt permit with requested information upon completion of the hunt, you will not be allowed to apply for a limited draw hunt on TR Complex the following hunt season.

Deer Gun

November 19-21, 2011
Daily bag limit: One buck and one doe. Hunt bag limit: One buck and two does. *Legal Hunting Weapons:* Shotguns with rifled slugs only, muzzleloading rifles, legal pistols and rifles, and legal archery equipment.

Deer Muzzleloader

December 2-7 or 9-14, 2011
Daily bag limit: One buck and one doe. Hunt bag limit: One buck and two does. *Legal Hunting Weapons:* Muzzleloaders loaded with a single ball are allowed. No breech-loading firearms of any type or caliber are allowed. Legal archery equipment is also permitted.

Unlimited Deer Hunt

Deer Archery

October 1 – November 18, 2011
November 22- December 1, 2011
December 8, 2011
December 15, 2011- January 31, 2012
Either sex deer. State bag limits apply.

Small Game Hunt Regulations

Legal Hunting Weapons: All hunters using shotguns for small game must use approved non-toxic shot. Small game may also be hunted with .22-mag, .17 and .22 caliber rim-fire rifles.

Dogs: Dogs are only permitted for hunting raccoon, squirrel, quail, and for the February rabbit hunts.

Raccoon with Dogs

October 1 - November 18, 2011
November 22- December 1, 2011
December 8, 2011
December 15, 2011 - February 28, 2012
Dogs are required.

Squirrel

October 15 - November 18, 2011
November 22- December 1, 2011
December 8, 2011
December 15, 2011- February 28, 2012

Rabbit without Dogs

October 15 - November 18, 2011
November 22 - December 1, 2011
December 8, 2011
December 15, 2011 - February 28, 2012

Rabbit with/without Dogs

February 1 - 28, 2012

Quail

February 1 – March 3, 2012

Waterfowl (Duck, Coot, and Geese) Hunt Regulations

Seasons: Open State season except Thursdays. Closed during all limited firearm deer hunts. No early teal season.

Hunt Units

Waterfowl hunting in Unit 1 will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Waterfowl hunting in Unit 2 will be on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. See map.

Shooting Hours: From ½ hour before sunrise to noon. All decoys, blind material and harvested waterfowl must be removed from the hunt area no later than 1 pm each day.

Dogs: Retrievers are permitted.

Spring Turkey Hunt Regulations

April 1 – May 1, 2012
Daily bag limit: 1 adult gobbler. Hunt bag limit: 2 adult gobblers.

Legal Hunting Weapons: Shotguns loaded with nontoxic shot and legal archery equipment.

Other Regulations

Hogs may be taken only with legal hunting weapons for turkey.

Fishing Regulations

Waters between the East and West levees, the Landside Ditch, and the portion of Panther Creek adjacent to the West Levee, are open year-round except that all fishing is closed during limited draw hunts. All other refuge waters are open from March 1 – November 15. Trot lines, limb lines, jugs, seines, and traps are prohibited. Bow Fishing is allowed during daylight hours within refuge fishing season.

Frogging

State season and regulations.

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Tracts

The Brown Tract (east of the Sunflower River) may be hunted for deer archery and rabbit. T R Complex Annual Public Use Permit required. Contact Complex Headquarters for maps and additional information. All visitors must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline at all times during hunting season.

Deer Archery

October 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012
Either sex deer.

Rabbit without Dogs

October 15, 2011 - February 28, 2012

Rabbit with/without Dogs

February 1-28, 2012